

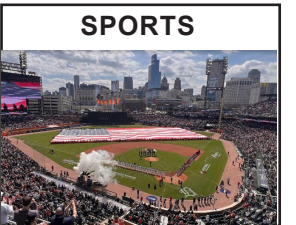


Page 6 - Mayor Sheffield delivers first State of City Address

# EL CENTRAL

## HISPANIC NEWS

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Page 10 – Tigers Best Opening Day Ever?

### ¡Michigan Wolverines son campeones nacionales!

**Por el equipo de EL CENTRAL**  
El equipo de básquetbol masculino de los Michigan Wolverines se coronó como rey del mundo del baloncesto universitario de la NCAA después de una victoria histórica en la final contra un fuerte equipo de UConn, con un marcador de 69 a 63, este lunes 6 de abril en Indianapolis, IN.  
Los Wolverines dominaron sus primeros cinco partidos del torneo, anotando 90 puntos o más y venciendo a sus rivales por amplios márgenes. UConn, sin embargo, resultó ser su oponente más difícil, peleando con todo hasta el final. Esta potencia de la ACC está acostumbrada a competir —y ganar— al más alto nivel, con dos campeonatos nacionales en los últimos cuatro años. Pero este equipo de Michigan, aguerrido y talentoso, superó retos durante toda la temporada y no estaba dispuesto a dejar escapar el título.  
El porcentaje de tiros de Michigan estuvo bajo en el

partido por el campeonato, pero su defensa fue sofocante: forzaron seis pérdidas de balón y registraron seis bloqueos. Yaxel Lendeborg, nombrado Jugador del Año de la Big Ten, jugó a pesar de lesiones en el tobillo y la rodilla sufridas en la victoria sobre Arizona, y aun así anotó 13 puntos en la final. Por su parte, el guardia Elliot Cadeau fue nombrado el Jugador Más Sobresaliente del Final Four gracias a su liderazgo en la duela y a los 19 puntos que anotó para guiar a los Wolverines a esta dura, pero merecida, victoria.  
Michigan también cuenta con dos estrellas con raíces hispanas/latinas: el centro Aday Mara, originario de España, y Lendeborg, quien nació en Puerto Rico y se mudó muy joven primero a Ohio y luego a New Jersey. Para más detalles sobre el primer campeonato nacional de los Wolverines en básquetbol desde 1989, visita [www.goblue.com](http://www.goblue.com).

### Michigan Wolverines Are National Champions!

**By EL CENTRAL Staff**  
The Michigan Wolverine men’s basketball team are the kings of the NCAA college basketball world after an historic finals victory over a tough UConn team by a score of 69 to 63 in Indianapolis, IN on Monday evening, April 6.  
The Wolverines were dominant in their first five games in the tournament by scoring 90 or more points and by beating their earlier opponents by double figures. UConn, however, proved to be their toughest opponent and put up a fierce battle to the end. The ACC powerhouse is accustomed to winning at a high level having won the national championship in two of the past four years. But this gritty and talented Michigan team has overcome challenges all season and was not to be denied.  
Michigan’s shooting percentage was off in the championship game, but their defense was stifling, causing six UConn turnovers and making six blocked shots. Big Ten Player of the Year power forward Yaxel Lendeborg played through an ankle and knee injury he suffered in the win over Arizona but still scored 13 points in the



Univeristy of Michigan Wolverines team pose with the National Championship trophy after defeating UConn, 69-63. Photo provided by University of Michigan Wolverines Athletics Department  
final while guard Elliot Cadeau was named the Final Four Most Outstanding Player with his masterful leadership on the floor and scoring 19 points to lead the Wolverines to their hard fought victory.  
Michigan boasts two star players with Hispanic/Latino roots: Center Aday Mara from Spain and Lendeborg who was born in Puerto Rico and moved when he was very young to Ohio and then New Jersey. For more details about the Wolverines’ first National Championship in basketball since 1989, visit [www.goblue.com](http://www.goblue.com)

### Wayne State Training Programs Address Community Challenges

In October 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic surged, Nate McCaughtry realized just how fragile the line between health and crisis could be.  
After days of worsening symptoms, the Wayne State University administrator climbed into his car and drove himself to the hospital, unsure whether he would return home. He spent two days in a makeshift COVID ward, listening to the sounds of a health care system being taxed to its limits.  
“I said goodbye to my family with much uncertainty if I would ever be coming home,” recalled McCaughtry, professor and assistant dean of Division of Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies. “I sat there for two days and listened to all of the coughing, the wheezing, the coding, the deaths, the nonstop influx of people coming in.”  
He recovered, but the experience changed how McCaughtry — who also serves as director of WSU’s Center for Health and Community Impact — thought about his work and the role universities should play in their local communities. Before that experience, much of

his career centered on improving health education for children in K–12 schools.  
Nate McCaughtry, director of WSU’s Center for Health and Community Impact, says community-focused trainings are essential: “If you’re going to achieve population-level health, you have to be out in the community. You can’t expect people to come to you.”  
After surviving COVID, McCaughtry began thinking more urgently about the millions of adults — particularly those in underserved communities — who lack access to the kinds of support systems that help people stay healthy.  
“My early degrees were to be a K–12 health and PE teacher, and then I got a special education master’s and then a kinesiology and health studies degree,” he explained. “And yes, instilling health in kids is super important. But there are so many more people who aren’t kids who need assistance — especially in vulnerable, underserved communities.”  
McCaughtry’s mindset has helped shape a growing network of training programs at Wayne

State University that equip residents across metro Detroit to confront some of the region’s most pressing challenges — from chronic disease and elder abuse to opioid overdoses.  
But the model goes beyond traditional outreach. Wayne State trains residents to serve their communities while also learning from the people it serves.  
**Building a community health workforce**  
Community health workers serve as a bridge between clinics and communities.  
“Community health workers are typically people that are in and from the community where they’re working,” McCaughtry said.  
Their role extends beyond traditional health care.  
“We now know nationally — and globally — that the life circumstances of individuals are one of the primary contributors to chronic disease,” he said. “Things like transportation, food access, housing — the whole nine yards.”  
To that end, one of the most expansive efforts is the Community Health Worker Academy, which prepares



Center for Urban Studies director Lyke Thompson holds up a box of Narcan as he’s flanked by members of the AmeriCorps Community Training Program for Overdose Rescue  
residents to help neighbors navigate health care systems and address barriers such as food insecurity, transportation and housing. Through the academy, Wayne State has certified more than 400 community health workers — far exceeding the program’s initial goal — and trained thousands more through advanced coursework. Those workers are now embedded in churches, nonprofit organizations and neighborhood programs across the region.  
**Training residents to save lives**  
Another program focuses on the opioid epidemic. Through the AmeriCorps Community Training Program for Overdose Rescue, housed at the Center for Urban Studies, participants learn how to administer naloxone, perform CPR and recognize overdose symptoms.

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Address: 1725 Lawndale St, Detroit, MI 48209



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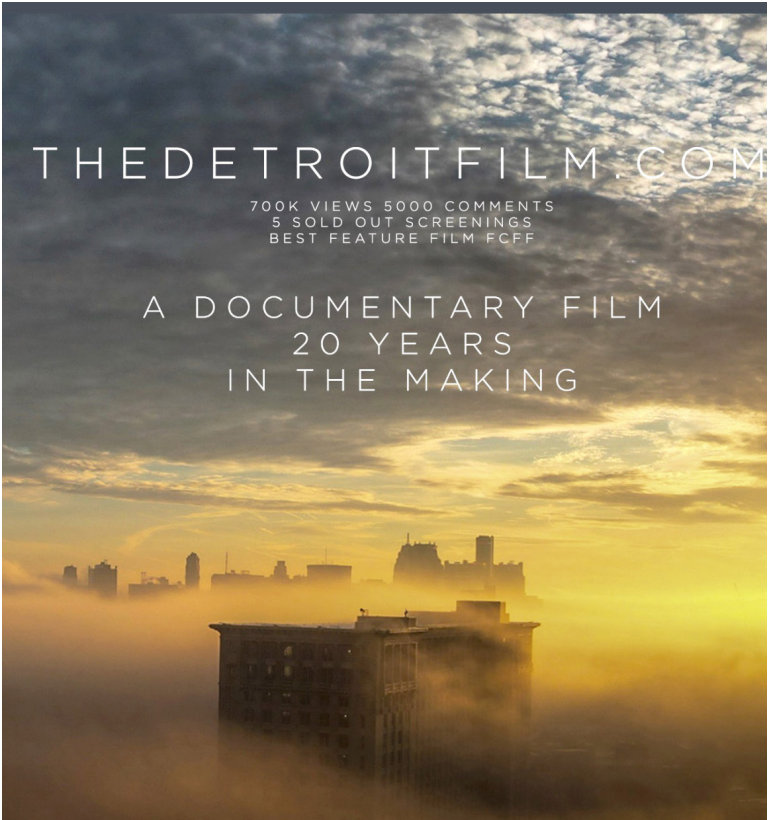
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# Small Sips, Community Roots: How The Grand Porter is Helping to Anchor Southwest Neighborhood History

By Amber Ogden | Photo Credits to Sarah Berger

Outside was overcast and balmy, but inside the Grand Porter, neighborhood chatter, Sly and the Family Stone over the speakers, and the smell of the soup of the day defined the space. The atmosphere is deliberately unpolished, but everything is in its proper place, with a communal table, beautiful wood floors, natural lighting, and a “Immigrants Welcome” poster at the corner of a corridor along W. Grand Blvd. known for its Mexican heritage—and it feels like home.

Located at 3620 Porter St, this is not a modern cafe; it is an intentional act of preservation. While many areas of Detroit face the rapid, often sterile face of gentrification, The Grand Porter takes a different path. The shop, housed in a nearly century-old restored building, serves as a bridge between Detroit’s storied past and Southwest Detroit’s future.

For the married couple and owners, Devon and Louisa Caldwell, opening a business in Southwest Detroit came with big responsibility. Originally from a Texas ranch bordering Mexico, the Caldwells moved to Detroit and settled in the community, aware of the

skepticism that outsiders face. She feels it’s important to acknowledge the city’s history of change, especially as a non-native.

“I grew up on a ranch on the Mexican border [in Texas]; everything was completely different than here. But my mom loves hockey, so she’s so excited that we have a hockey rink in our neighborhood at Clark Park,” Louisa said.

“It’s important to acknowledge that [unsteady history of change in Detroit], especially as someone like myself, who’s not from here. We love the connectivity and the community here. The people in this neighborhood—I know 90% of my neighbors on the entire street by first name, and that’s the community part.”

When she and her husband bought the building, its tar-brick facade hid its true character. After months of restoration, Louise says the past owners’ vision for a coffee shop has “simply become a reality”.

The Caldwell’s approach to the building mirrors the engagement with the community, seeking authenticity by restoring what was already there. She acknowledges calls for affordable housing, noting the building’s long vacancy. Listening to the neighborhood’s concerns, they offer a 10% discount to local residents and distribute flyers to prioritize them.

The shop has already received a warm welcome from the neighborhood, and owners of the legendary Mexicantown Bakery further down W. Vernor, who helped create

the “Mexicantown” identity, have been vocal supporters.

Louisa notes that they have been incredibly supportive, frequently reposting The Grand Porter’s updates on social media. That cross-business solidarity speaks to the soul of the neighborhood.

This commitment to neighborhood integrity extends to the staff, including Annabelle Martinez, a barista who moved to Detroit from Indiana but was born in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Martinez, one of three staff members fluent in Spanish, affirms the shop’s connection to the local community.

“One thing about Detroit that I love is its welcoming people. It feels like home,” Martinez says.

She recently introduced a Coconut Piloncillo syrup, which has since become a customer favorite. Other traditional flavors, like chilaquiles, are planned to be added to the menu to suit local tastes.

This culinary direction is overseen by Executive Chef Lou Hammer, who brings 15 years of experience from her family’s legacy bakery. Hammer’s mission is focused on accessibility, maintaining a tiered pricing strategy that offers \$1 pastries alongside higher-end items. The goal is to ensure a neighbor can grab a vegan granola bar and a coffee for under or around \$5 dollars.

“It’s about utilizing what is in-house and partnering with local providers like Stoney Creek Mushrooms to keep the integrity of the plate,” Hammer explains.

When asked about favorites, a deliciously difficult decision, she points to the Root Veg Hash, a hearty dish with crispy potatoes and turmeric-chili mayo, as a standout that balances comfort with fresh,

seasonal produce.

As the morning progresses, the “vibe” the staff describes becomes even more apparent. The shop isn’t just a place for transactions; it’s a “third space.” \*

As Louisa is telling EL CENTRAL one of her favorite stories about a local mail carrier who recently delivered a package, and came back specifically for her lunch break because the space felt approachable, an elderly couple walks in to order their daily coffee. Lousia pauses the interview to warmly greet the regulars; they share hugs and pleasantries.

“It is these small moments of connection that define the shop’s success more than any sales metric could,” she said.

Looking toward the warmer months, the team is excited to see the space “blossom.” There are plans for community events in the adjacent lot, “Sandwich Parties,” and fundraisers for local organizations, such as street medicine clinics. These intentional efforts prove growth doesn’t have to come at the expense of heritage or affordability.

The Grand Porter is proving



that it isn’t trying to reinvent Southwest Detroit, but adding value to the already beautiful landscape it has always earned. The building reflects the heart of the barrio; history isn’t just something in a textbook or a lost memory; it’s something you can sit in, sip from, and preserve for the next generation.

\* “Third spaces” are places where folks feel most comfortable after home and workplaces

**Editor’s Note:** See pages 8 and 9 to learn about the significance of The Grand Porter building renovation.

Amber Ogden is a Detroit-based freelance journalist and EL CENTRAL reporter, covering the vital intersections of arts, culture, and community in Southwest Detroit. As a Detroit native, she has had her work appear in The Michigan Chronicle, Visit Detroit, Outlier Media, and Eater Detroit. When she isn’t documenting the happenings of Detroit, she can be found exploring the city’s culinary scene or visiting a local art gallery. Follow her work at [amberogden.com](http://amberogden.com).

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at [www.pressforward.news](http://www.pressforward.news).



## A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

### The site is cleared for construction of the new Detroit City Football Club stadium

Photos courtesy of Detroit City FC

As the old Southwest Detroit Hospital comes down and the debris is cleared, we mark a milestone years in the making. A visible sign that change is truly underway on this site. DCFC does so with deep respect for the generations of patients, families and staff whose lives were shaped within those walls, and with gratitude for the role the hospital played in our community’s life. Now that the land is being prepared

for construction, it is only a matter of time before steel starts rising and a new chapter begins on this ground. When that happens, you can expect more frequent updates, behind-the-scenes looks, job opportunities, updates and progress stories as the project moves from site work to a new forever home for soccer.

As dramatic as the demolition timelapse looks, some of the most important work has actually happened after the walls came down. Sorting,

hauling and reclaiming the thousands of yards of material that once made up Southwest Detroit Hospital. The debris you see disappearing isn’t just being pushed aside; it’s being carefully removed from the site and, wherever possible, given a second life through recycling and reuse. At first glance, 2,500 yards of construction debris sounds like a simple cleanup number, but picture it instead as enough material to fill well over 250 full-size backyard

pools or to lay tens of thousands of Detroit-style pizza boxes end to end from the Spirit of Detroit all the way to the Redford Theatre. Every bit of that waste has been managed so the site can start fresh, turning a once-dormant block into ground that’s ready for what comes next. From that debris, about 2,000 yards of hardfill, including masonry, asphalt, tile, sand and dirt, has been recycled, the equivalent of repurposing the weight of hundreds of fully loaded

DDOT buses, rather than sending it to a landfill. Add in 1,500 tons of recycled steel scrap, enough metal to create well over a hundred sculptures the size of the massive red “Orion” outside the DIA, plus 500 yards of recycled concrete, enough material to match the volume of hundreds of thousands of bottles of Faygo, and you start to see how this project is quietly building the future while reusing the past.



The demolition of the Southwest Detroit Hospital, which started in December, 2025, is now complete and debris has been removed and recycled.



# Wayne State Training Programs

Con't from pg. 1

“The core of what ACT does is bring in people from the university and from the community,” said the center’s director, Lyke Thompson. “We train them to go out and teach people how to end an opioid overdose using naloxone.”

“We partnered with over 300 community organizations,” Thompson said. “Maybe a library, maybe a church, maybe a neighborhood organization. We call them up and say, ‘Hey, can we do another opioid training?’”

More than 6,000 people across Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties have now received the training.

“Each person has gotten Narcan, fentanyl test strips and resources,” said Ja’lea Echols, program director of the AmeriCorps Community Training Program.

Attending an overdose rescue training is about more than learning how to administer naloxone; it’s an act of community care, harm reduction and health equity, said Gage Gillard, HIV prevention specialist with Preventative Health Services at Corktown Health, which has partnered with AmeriCorps for the trainings.

“Overdose prevention carries particular urgency in LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities, where structural racism, stigma and barriers to affirming health care can increase risk while limiting access to support,” Gillard said. “Training community members with life-saving skills helps ensure

someone can intervene when formal systems fail or arrive too late.”

**Protecting older adults**

Another Wayne State initiative focuses on preventing elder abuse, a problem that experts say often goes undetected in vulnerable populations.

Through the program, nursing faculty and staff train health care workers, nursing students and caregivers to recognize warning signs of financial exploitation, unsafe housing conditions and other risks facing older adults.

The initiative includes multiple components, ranging from continuing education for health care professionals to hands-on training for students who will go on to take the information into the community.

“We’re educating people on things like financial exploitation, hoarding and safe housing,” said research assistant Jalana Haynes. “Unfortunately, there are people out there who see older adults as easy targets, so we want to promote awareness and prevention strategies.”

Through the program’s training modules, nursing students complete at least 10 hours of coursework covering the major areas of concern in elder abuse. After completing the training, students conduct outreach at senior community centers and residential sites to share information with staff and residents about recognizing warning signs and connect older adults to resources.

The program also includes

student-led outreach visits and informational campaigns aimed at older residents. In one early phase, students distributed educational materials to approximately 150 seniors outlining resources related to housing safety, mediation, financial exploitation and hoarding risks.

Additional program initiatives include interdisciplinary visits with older adults by teams of students from nursing, medicine, pharmacy and social work programs, allowing them to assess needs and connect residents to services. Haynes also works on a second grant-funded training designed to educate caregivers in the community.

“The training was an insightful conversation that provided detailed steps on how to provide proper caregiving,” said Vincent Fulton, a Detroit resident who attended trainings on caring for seniors so that he could better tend to his aging mom. “The presentation gave me so much more understanding of the best ways to approach caregiving, especially for close family and friends who have dementia and other issues.”

**Learning from the community**

Wayne State leaders say the work is as much about listening as it is about teaching. Direct interaction with residents helps university staff refine their training methods and better understand the realities communities face.

“What we’ve learned is that simply certifying somebody



Nate McCaughtry, director of Wayne State University’s Center for Health and Community Impact

through 96 hours of training is woefully insufficient for them to adequately provide services for the community,” McCaughtry said.

That realization led the academy to expand its offerings and create a massive catalog of continuing education courses and resources to help community health workers deepen their expertise. The university has also developed resource libraries and digital tools designed around the needs people describe during outreach efforts — everything from guides for caregivers of Alzheimer’s patients to materials addressing health literacy and cultural differences.

Over time, those lessons have reshaped how the programs

operate.

“In the beginning, every time we did a training, we learned something,” Thompson said. “We learned how people reacted, what made them comfortable and what didn’t. So, we’ve adapted over time.”

That feedback loop — teaching while learning — has become central to Wayne State’s approach to community engagement.

For McCaughtry, the lesson he carried out of the hospital years ago still holds true: real solutions require meeting people where they are. “If you’re going to achieve population-level health, you have to be out in the community,” he said. “You can’t expect people to come to you.”

# LATINO LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY



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Guest Opinion:

Data Centers (DC’s) – Detroit Has the Tools and the History

By Rogelio Landin

Two weeks ago, Detroit City Council passed a resolution requesting a two-year moratorium on Data Centers to conduct a study on their social and economic impacts. These studies would be pointless as they are already obsolete because they would be based on outdated models that are no longer the basis for specifications to construct and operate them.

All of last year’s campaigns were composed of calls for more “Good Jobs” and “Affordable Housing”. We have an opportunity to secure good jobs providing good pay that will permit people to afford good housing and our elected officials want to put it on hold, all the while discouraging other potential investors from engaging with Detroit because we can’t seem to get out of our own way.

I have attached an infographic on the distribution of Data Centers across the country. What the numbers will tell you is that the greatest concentrations of DC’s are in densely populated areas driving substantial economic activity. These include the two states with the highest concentration of Fortune 500 corporate headquarters and the most in Virginia supporting our government’s need for data processing.

DC’s are in fact infrastructure. The infographic also tells us that DC’s are not new with over 5,000 in existence. Up until two years ago, you really hadn’t heard much about them because there was nothing to be said. No Chicken Little the Sky is Falling alarm being sounded.

Let’s address the two most common concerns associated with DC’s; water and power, nothing new.

The entirety of the industrial revolution/evolution was equally, if not more so, dependent on

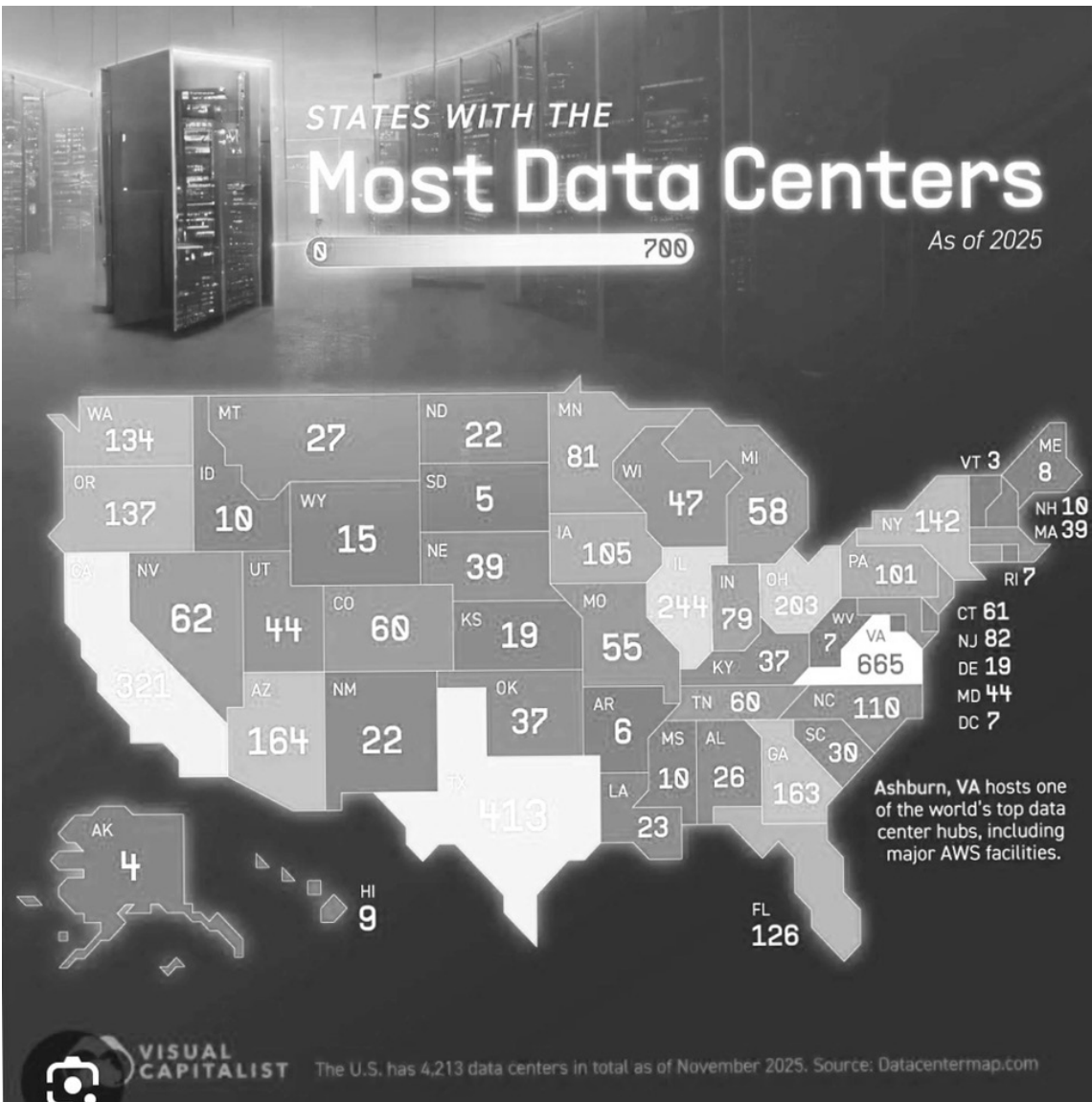
both resources. The manufacture of transport vehicles and the steel industry alone required massive consumption of both. Long story short, Ford Motor in building the Rouge incorporated their own powerhouse in the design by 1928, a century ago. General Motors Cadillac Plant 1921 had its own water recovery and treatment plant built into the south side of the Clark street campus.

Fast forward, 1980’s, Riverfront Towers had its own battery backed generator system built in to protect against outages. Today, the ability to recapture water and incorporate self-supporting and sustainable power generation utilizing micro-reactors and combo generator-battery supported systems essentially mitigate any concerns regarding adverse impacts.

This past month alone provided forums on the issue at the Michigan Chronicle’s Pancakes and Politics, The Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce State of the Region, The Big Four, The State of the County; each event with a focus on regionalism and each in their own way, supportive of DC’s recognizing the significance of the role they play in providing the infrastructure to support a platform for growth in our region.

During Mayor Sheffield’s State of the City, she placed a focus on the Move Detroit initiative to increase our population by supporting home ownership incentives. Her Chief of Staff made the point of aligning our success in attracting new residents on the availability of opportunity. Council’s proposed moratorium is contradictory to those aspirations.

Two weeks ago, I attended the Detroit City Council meeting to request that the council withdraw



its request for a moratorium, because we already have the tools necessary to address their concerns, thereby nullifying any need for a study. The Toolkit I am referring to would be comprised of the Community Benefits Ordinance (10 years of successful implementation) and the Executive Orders covering Detroit based hiring and contracting initiatives to start. This is an opportunity for Detroit to share with the state

legislature our CBO as a template for our representatives in Lansing to model something similar for the state. Senate Candidate Mallory Mc Morrow is the only one thus far to outline her vision for DC’s that looks and sounds very much like Detroit’s CBO. The truth is a two-year time out will culminate in Detroit being passed over in the drive to increase capacity by 2030. If we do this, we are essentially out

of the game. By the time we get back to it, 2028, it will take two more years to set up the regulatory framework to participate, which takes us to 2030, game over. I invite you to study the infographic and think about when or where you have heard or read about anything negative or adverse regarding Data Center’s anywhere in America, especially Virginia, California and/or Texas.

JOE LOUIS GREENWAY

COMMUNITY MEETINGS (COO)  
REUNIONES COMUNITARIAS

WOODMERE STREET

March/Marzo 19, 2026  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

April/Abril 16, 2026  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Join online at the District 6 Community Meeting Zoom:  
<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/3631409738>

DESCRIPTION

Please join the City of Detroit for updates about the design and construction of the Joe Louis Greenway on Woodmere Street. This route was previously selected through a community-led process and will create a biking/walking connection between Fort Street and Vernor Highway. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the proposed improvements.

DESCRIPCIÓN:

Acompañe la Ciudad de Detroit para recibir actualizaciones sobre el diseño y la construcción del sendero Joe Louis Greenway en la calle Woodmere. Esta ruta fue seleccionada previamente a través de un proceso dirigido por la comunidad. Esta ruta creará una conexión para ciclistas y peatones entre Fort Street y Vernor Highway. Esta reunión ofrece la oportunidad para que el público comparta sus comentarios sobre las actualizaciones propuestas.

CONTACT US

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Link: [www.bit.ly/truckreporter](http://www.bit.ly/truckreporter)



# Five Takeaways from Mayor Sheffield's First State of the City Address

Mayor Mary Sheffield gave her first State of the City address on March 31, 2026, at Mumford High School. The address gives Detroiters a chance to hear directly from Mayor Sheffield about the policies and programs shaping their neighborhoods and daily lives.

From lowering the cost of living and expanding homeownership to investing in families and improving City services, the address outlines how the administration's priorities are working to make Detroit a more affordable, safer, and more opportunity-filled city for residents.

**New Move Detroit incentive aims to make homeownership more attainable**



Mayor Mary Sheffield announces a livable wage increase for all city employees. Photo: Sydney Bowden

The Mayor's proposal would effectively raise the salaries of hundreds of City workers to a minimum of \$21.45 per hour, which according to the Living Wage Institute translates to \$44,616 per year.

To achieve that goal, Mayor Sheffield issued an executive order requiring HR Director Denise Starr to produce a report in 60 days detailing

years old) can board any City bus, seven days a week, 365 days a year, at no cost. This means getting to school, after-school programs, tutoring sessions, enrichment activities, employment and more.

This program directly reinforces Mayor Sheffield's commitment to Detroit's children and aligns with her administration's bold new investment in the City's educational ecosystem.

Chronic absenteeism is one of the most pressing challenges for schools. Research consistently shows that students who miss 10 percent or more of the school year fall significantly behind their peers. For many students, the obstacle isn't motivation, it's getting there. Many parents are working multiple jobs, juggling unpredictable schedules, and simply cannot always be there to get their child to school or an after-school program.

**Detroit's Rx Kids program enrolls 1,200 mothers, distributes \$1.6M**

The groundbreaking initiative

**Mayor Sheffield announces plan to restore Mid-Block Lighting to city blocks**



Mayor Sheffield and leadership from the PLA gathered in front of longtime resident Cynthia Loggins' home on March 20 to unveil plans to install at least 3,000 new mid-block lights on neighborhood residential streets.

Concerned about dark and underlit areas, Detroit residents in neighborhoods have been advocating for better lighting on their blocks for years. In response, Mayor Sheffield announced she is directing the Public Lighting Authority (PLA) to implement a plan to answer them.

The Sheffield Administration's plan will prioritize installing lighting in the "mid-block" areas of neighborhoods, in many cases

doubling visibility between corner lights all across Detroit as a result.

Mayor Sheffield has long advocated for this improvement, first as City Council President and throughout her mayoral campaign. Earlier this month, she signed an Executive Order directing the PLA to use available resources to prioritize critical lighting needs in order to support Detroit residents.

Find the full schedule here: <https://bit.ly/4skAIg6>

### Detroit: Your Future is Here!

Mayor Mary Sheffield and the Make Detroit Home program are investing in the community to help you grow and stay in the 313!

- \$15,000 Stipends for business growth, home down payments, or renovations.
- \$1,000 Relocation Grants for those returning or moving to the city.
- VIP Detroit Experiences, local discounts, and professional networking.

Ready to claim your spot in Detroit's future?

Apply at Move Detroit today!

#MoveDetroit #MakeDetroitHome #313 #DetroitRising #DetroitEntrepreneurs

During the State of the City address, Mayor Sheffield announced the launch of the Move Detroit incentive. It is a historic, citywide effort to grow Detroit's population, build shared prosperity, foster thriving communities, and create even brighter futures for all Detroiters.

The new incentive will award program benefits to support the retention of Detroit talent critical to the city's growth, including creatives, entrepreneurs, and small business owners, with additional opportunities to welcome new and returning Detroiters back home.

The Move Detroit incentive offers up to \$15,000 toward home purchase plus \$1,000 relocation bonus for moving into designated Detroit neighborhoods.

Check out [www.MoveDetroit.com](http://www.MoveDetroit.com) for more information on eligibility and for info on how to apply.

**Mayor Sheffield takes on poverty reduction by committing to pay all city employees a livable wage**

Mayor Sheffield joined with City employees and union representatives to announce another bold step in her pledge to address poverty in Detroit by ensuring that every fulltime City employee is paid a livable wage.

every fulltime position currently being paid less than \$21.45 per hour. With that information, the necessary salary increases will be reflected in every eligible City of Detroit employee's paycheck beginning the first full pay period in July, which coincides with the start of the new fiscal year.

For residents and job seekers: learn about related job openings at JOBS PAGE LINK. <https://detroitmi.gov/opportunities/jobs>

**City offering Ride to Rise program, offering free bus rides for Detroit students**

The Ride to Rise: Show ID, Students Ride Free program is designed to eliminate transportation as a barrier to student success. By simply showing a valid student ID, K-12 aged youth (under 19



During the State of the City address, Mayor Sheffield announced the new Rides to Rise program with the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) that will offer free bus rides for Detroit students, every day of the year.



Rx Kids reached a major milestone just one month after Mayor Sheffield launched the initiative in Detroit. More than 1,200 Detroit mothers have now enrolled in the program, with over \$1.6 million in cash already delivered to families.

provides direct financial support to mothers during pregnancy and throughout a baby's first six months. Detroit is the largest city in the nation to participate in Rx Kids.

Rx Kids provides a \$1,500 cash prescription during pregnancy, followed by \$500 per month throughout the baby's first six months. The program recognizes that pregnancy and infancy are often the most financially vulnerable times for families and aims to provide meaningful support when it matters most.

With approximately 8,000 babies born in Detroit each year, the program has the potential to deliver tens of millions of dollars in direct support to Detroit families while improving maternal and infant health outcomes and strengthening the local economy.

How to apply: Check eligibility and apply online here. [www.rxkids.org/detroit](http://www.rxkids.org/detroit).

## Residential Midblock Meetings

The Public Lighting Authority (PLA) of Detroit wants to hear from residents across Detroit to help improve street lighting in our neighborhoods. We will be holding Community meetings for you to provide your feedback on the midblock lighting plan

TIME 5PM - 8PM

District 1 @ Crowell Community Center - Apr 13  
District 2 @ Adams Butzel Complex- Apr 15  
District 3 @ Farwell Rec Center- Apr 20  
District 4 @ A. B. Ford Park - Apr 22  
District 5 @ Coleman A. Young Community Center - Apr 27  
District 6 @ Clemente Center - Apr 29  
District 7 @ Carpenters & Millwrights Skilled Training Center - Apr 30

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# The Leadership Playbook

## Six Moves That Make A Difference

By Kate Zabriskie

Not every leader is a great one. Plenty of people wear the “leader” badge, but few earn the respect, trust, and loyalty that separates the good from the exceptional. The difference? Great leaders think, act, and show up in ways that set them apart.

They don’t just manage—they inspire. They don’t just delegate—they empower. And they don’t just react—they anticipate. So what exactly makes great leaders stand out? Let’s break it down.

### 1. They Set the Standard and Live It

Great leaders know they’re walking billboards for the behaviors and values they want to see in their teams. If you want your people to work hard, show up on time, and deliver results, you’d better be doing the same.

Here’s how they set the tone:

- They Walk the Talk: They don’t just talk about values like integrity or collaboration—they embody them. If they say deadlines matter, you’ll never catch them missing one.
- They Own Their Mistakes: Great leaders admit when they’ve messed up. “I dropped the ball on this, and here’s how I’ll fix it” earns more respect than pretending it never happened.
- They Show Respect to Get Respect: They treat everyone—employees, peers, clients—with the same level of respect, whether it’s the intern or the CEO.

Ask Yourself: What behaviors am I modeling for my team? Are there gaps between what I say and what I do?

### 2. They Prioritize Clarity Over Complexity

A lot of leaders think throwing around buzzwords and jargon makes them look smart. Great leaders know it just makes them hard to follow.

Instead, they’re masters of clarity:

- They Make Expectations Crystal Clear: No one on their team is left guessing what “good” looks like. They spell it out: “We need to improve customer satisfaction scores by 10% this quarter, and here’s how we’ll do it.”
- They Simplify Goals: They break big visions into manageable chunks. “Increase market share” becomes, “Let’s land three new clients this quarter.”
- They Over-Communicate: Great leaders know that one memo or meeting isn’t enough. They repeat key messages often so no one forgets what’s important.

Ask Yourself: Are my team members clear on what’s expected of them? How often do I check for understanding?

### 3. They Build Trust, Not Fear

Fear-based leadership is a shortcut—and a bad one at that. Sure, people might jump when you bark orders, but they’re not jumping because they respect you. Great leaders understand that trust, not fear, is the real currency of leadership.

Here’s how they build it:

- They Follow Through: If they say they’ll do something, they do it. No excuses, no dodging.
- They Listen More Than They Talk: Great leaders don’t just hear—they listen. Whether it’s feedback, concerns, or ideas, they show they value what their team has to say.
- They’re Transparent: When things go wrong, they’re honest about it. They don’t sugarcoat, spin, or hide behind vague statements.

Ask Yourself: Do my actions consistently build trust? Would my team say they feel safe bringing challenges to me?

### 4. They Empower, Not Micromanage

Micromanagers drain the life out of their teams. Great leaders, on the other hand, empower their people to take ownership of their work—and the results speak for themselves.

Here’s how they empower their teams:

- They Delegate the Right Way: They assign tasks with clear goals, then trust their team to figure out the “how.” They’re there for support, not to hover.
- They Celebrate Wins: Great leaders don’t hog the spotlight. When things go well, they shine it on their team.
- They Let People Fail: This one’s tough, but it’s important. They know that sometimes the best lessons come from mistakes, so they create a culture where failure is a learning opportunity—not a career-ending event.

Ask Yourself: How much autonomy do I give my team? Do I celebrate their successes loudly enough?

### 5. They Stay Cool Under Pressure

When the stakes are high, great leaders don’t panic. They stay calm, think clearly, and lead with confidence—even when the situation is anything but calm.

Here’s how they handle the heat:

- They Pause Before Reacting: Knee-jerk decisions rarely lead to good outcomes. Great leaders take a beat to assess the situation before acting.
- They Stay Solutions-Focused: While others spiral into blame or negativity, great leaders zero in on what needs to happen next.
- They Radiate

Confidence: Even if they’re sweating on the inside, they project steady confidence to their team. Calm is contagious—and so is chaos.

Ask Yourself: How do I respond to pressure? Am I helping my team stay calm and focused, or adding to the stress?

### 6. They Never Stop Learning

Great leaders don’t see themselves as finished products. They’re constantly looking for ways to grow, improve, and stay ahead of the curve.

Here’s how they embrace learning:

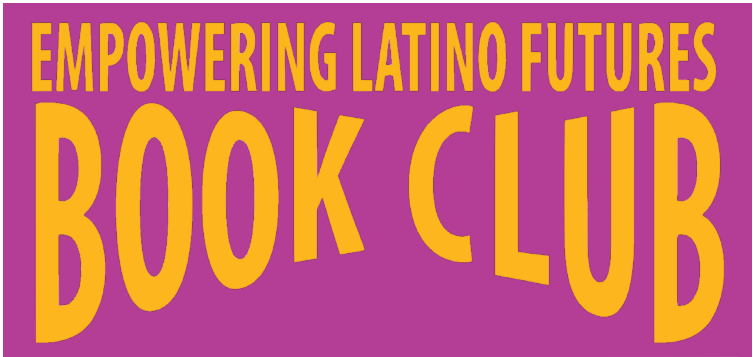
- They Seek Feedback: They don’t just give it—they ask for it. Whether it’s from their team, peers, or mentors, they’re always looking for ways to improve.
- They Stay Curious: Great leaders are always asking questions. “Why is this happening? How can we do it better?”
- They Invest in Themselves: From reading books to attending workshops, they never stop sharpening their skills.

Ask Yourself: When was the last time I sought out feedback? What am I doing to grow as a leader right now?

Final Thought

Start small. Pick one thing from this list and commit to doing it better. Then add another, and another. Leadership isn’t about being perfect—it’s about showing up, doing the work, and inspiring your team to do the same.

And if you’re already leading? Remember this: Great leaders don’t just create great



Kate Zabriskie

results—they create great people. That’s the difference, and it’s one worth striving for every single day.

About the Author: Kate Zabriskie is the president of Business Training Works, Inc., a Virginia-based talent development firm. She and her team provide

onsite, virtual, and online soft-skills training courses and workshops to clients in the United States and internationally. For more information, visit [www.businesstrainingworks.com](http://www.businesstrainingworks.com).

Source: Business Training Works and Latino 247 Media Group

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# Embellendiendo Southwest Detroit

## La infraestructura está impulsando la resiliencia de los pequeños negocios en Southwest Detroit con la ayuda de la Southwest Detroit Business Association

Por Layla McMurtrie para Model D

En un tramo de West Vernor Highway, los cambios son fáciles de notar si sabes dónde mirar: banquetas más anchas, nueva iluminación, fachadas más limpias y pequeños espacios verdes a lo largo del entorno urbano. Pero debajo de esas mejoras visibles hay algo menos obvio y mucho más fundamental: una inversión a largo plazo en infraestructura que está moldeando discretamente el futuro del ecosistema de pequeños negocios del Southwest Detroit.

Por más de una década, la Southwest Detroit Business Association (SDBA) ha asumido un papel que va mucho más allá del apoyo tradicional a los negocios. A través de su trabajo en el paisaje urbano y la infraestructura, la organización ha ayudado a reimaginar lo que significa que un corredor comercial funcione no solo como un lugar para comprar, sino como un espacio para vivir, convivir y crecer.

Greg Mangan, promotor de bienes raíces de la SDBA, ha visto esa evolución de primera mano.

“Originalmente, mi papel se centraba más en la asistencia técnica para pequeños negocios y en ayudar a los dueños de propiedades; trataba de ser un enlace entre los propietarios y los negocios que buscaban un local”, dice Mangan. “Y luego se hizo la transición hacia el trabajo en temas de infraestructura, como la infraestructura verde para aguas pluviales y proyectos de paisajismo urbano”.

Esa base ha tomado muchas formas. En 2015, un proyecto de paisajismo urbano de casi \$6 millones transformó más de dos millas de West Vernor, reemplazando banquetas, instalando iluminación histórica y agregando elementos de jardinería como maceteros y árboles. El proyecto fue una colaboración entre la SDBA, la Ciudad de Detroit, DTE y líderes locales, y marcó un punto de inflexión en la forma de abordar la infraestructura en el barrio.

Las mejoras no fueron solo estéticas. Para los dueños de pequeños negocios, eliminaron importantes cargas financieras.

“Digamos que cada tramo de banqueta cuesta \$800 y tienes 10 de esos frente a tu propiedad. Son \$8,000 que tendrías que pagar en reparaciones”,

comenta Mangan. “Cuando nosotros reemplazamos todas las banquetas, ese es un gasto que el dueño de la propiedad ya no tiene que asumir”.

Ese tipo de alivio es fundamental en una comunidad donde muchos negocios operan con márgenes de ganancia muy estrechos y no tienen acceso a grandes cantidades de capital. La infraestructura, ya sean banquetas, iluminación o sistemas de drenaje, es costosa y a menudo inalcanzable sin el apoyo público o filantrópico coordinado.

Ahí es donde la SDBA actúa como un puente.

“Creo que le da a los negocios los medios para alcanzar y recibir oportunidades de financiamiento, como apoyos económicos o préstamos, que de otra manera no habrían sabido buscar”, dice Sarah Clark, cofundadora y codirectora ejecutiva de Cadillac Urban Gardens.

“La SDBA ofrece ese puente para encontrar fondos. Son una fuente de confianza”.

Clark ha trabajado junto a la SDBA por más de una década, particularmente en proyectos de infraestructura verde como los jardines de lluvia, que son áreas ajardinadas

diseñadas para absorber y filtrar el escurrimiento de aguas pluviales.

“He trabajado con Greg durante más de 10 años”, dice. “Él es muy constante, siempre está ahí y realmente le importa. Hace una diferencia maravillosa en el barrio y establece excelentes relaciones con los dueños de negocios”.

Estos proyectos se han vuelto cada vez más importantes en una ciudad que lucha con una infraestructura envejecida y frecuentes inundaciones. Southwest Detroit tiene una alta concentración de superficies impermeables —calles, banquetas y techos que impiden que el agua sea absorbida por la tierra— lo que pone mucha presión sobre los sistemas de drenaje.

Para hacer frente a esto, la SDBA y sus socios han implementado infraestructura

verde para aguas pluviales en toda la comunidad.

“Tenemos tanta superficie impermeable por las calles, las banquetas y los techos”, explica Mangan. “Así que hemos emprendido proyectos de infraestructura verde para aguas pluviales, como jardines de lluvia y sistemas subterráneos, para captar esa agua”.

Detrás de la oficina de la SDBA, un jardín de lluvia capta el escurrimiento que de otro modo sobrecargaría el sistema de alcantarillado.

En LA Joya Gardens, un desarrollo de viviendas asequibles terminado el año pasado, un sistema subterráneo recolecta la primera pulgada de lluvia de las superficies circundantes.

“Este tipo de proyectos son muy caros y por lo general no pueden ser costeados únicamente por el dueño de una propiedad o un negocio”, dice Mangan.

La Joya Gardens también reveló otro nivel de retos en infraestructura: la capacidad de energía. Para dar servicio a los 53 apartamentos del desarrollo, el proyecto requirió 13 postes de luz nuevos, cinco transformadores y una extensa red de cableado nuevo.

“Algo que normalmente costaría \$25,000 por un nuevo poste de luz y un transformador, terminó costando más de \$600,000 para el proyecto”, comenta Mangan.

Pero esa inversión no beneficia solo a un proyecto.

“El siguiente negocio o desarrollo en esa área ahora podría tener un suministro eléctrico mejorado y no tendrá que asumir ese costo”, afirma.

El financiamiento para estos esfuerzos proviene de una mezcla de fuentes, incluyendo fundaciones, instituciones financieras y agencias públicas.



Sarah Clark de Cadillac Urban Gardens en Southwest Detroit. Foto: Nick Hagen



Greg Mangan trabaja como promotor de bienes raíces en la SDBA, ayudando a los negocios con el paisaje urbano y las mejoras de infraestructura. Foto: Nick Hagen



La SDBA brinda apoyo de infraestructura y paisaje urbano en Southwest Detroit. Foto: Nick Hagen

“Parte de los fondos ha venido de fundaciones como Kresge, la Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan y de diferentes instituciones bancarias”, menciona Mangan. “Eso ayuda a pagar al personal y apoyar el trabajo en torno a la resiliencia de los negocios y los dueños de propiedades”.

Aun así, el panorama de los fondos siempre está cambiando, lo que agrega incertidumbre a la planificación a largo plazo.

Esa incertidumbre va más allá del dinero. En un barrio con una gran población inmigrante, las dinámicas políticas a nivel general también pueden influir en cómo se sienten los dueños de negocios respecto a invertir.

“Definitivamente hay más preocupación en el barrio”, dice Clark. “Pero la gente se está cuidando mutuamente”.

Ese sentido de cuidado y conexión es parte de lo que hace que las mejoras de infraestructura tengan tanto impacto.

“Creo que demuestra que a los negocios les importa, y a la comunidad le importa invertir en sus negocios locales”, añade Clark. “Hace que más gente quiera venir al barrio, frecuentar esos negocios y mantener el dinero dentro de la comunidad”.

En el fondo, los programas de embellecimiento urbano no se tratan solo de mejoras físicas. Se trata de crear espacios donde la gente se

sienta segura, conectada y bienvenida.

“Algo que se subestima mucho es cómo la infraestructura crea lugares más seguros para las personas, ya sea que caminen, anden en bicicleta o usen silla de ruedas”, dice Mangan. “Si creas una infraestructura que se adapte a algo más que solo vehículos, creas un barrio más equitativo”.

Los planes futuros reflejan ese enfoque. Un proyecto propuesto a lo largo de la Joe Louis Greenway ensancharía las banquetas e introduciría elementos de infraestructura verde como zanjas biológicas para captar las aguas pluviales y al mismo tiempo mejorar la seguridad de los peatones.

Para Clark, la visión a largo plazo está enraizada en la constancia y el cuidado.

“La SDBA siempre ha estado ahí cuando he necesitado un recurso, ya sea un apoyo económico, una alianza o un contacto”, afirma. “Creo que seguirán mejorando la calidad de los negocios y ayudando a la gente que ya está aquí”.

Aunque los nuevos desarrollos a menudo llaman la atención, son los sistemas de fondo los que determinan si los negocios pueden prosperar. En Southwest Detroit, esos sistemas se están reconstruyendo no solo para funcionar, sino para respaldar a una comunidad que sigue invirtiendo en sí misma.



Cadillac Urban Gardens recibió un apoyo económico de infraestructura para instalar superficies permeables en su lote pavimentado. Foto: Nick Hagen

*Resilient Neighborhoods es una serie de reportajes y participación comunitaria que examina cómo los residentes de Detroit y las organizaciones de desarrollo comunitario trabajan juntos para fortalecer los barrios locales. Es posible gracias al financiamiento de The Kresge Foundation.*

*Layla McMurtrie es una periodista local apasionada por el arte, la cultura y la comunidad de Detroit. Su trabajo ha sido publicado en el Detroit Metro Times, Detroit Free Press, Between the Lines, Metromode y otras publicaciones de Michigan. También cofundó una organización artística comunitaria llamada The Vision Detroit, donde conduce un podcast llamado Tell A Vision que destaca a los artistas jóvenes de la ciudad.*



# Spruce up in Southwest Detroit

## Infrastructure is powering Southwest Detroit’s small business resilience with help from Southwest Detroit Business Association.

by Layla McMurtrie for Model D • Reprinted with permission

On a stretch of West Vernor Highway, the changes are easy to see if you know where to look: wider sidewalks, new lighting, cleaner storefronts, and pockets of greenery throughout the built environment. But beneath those visible upgrades lies something less obvious and far more foundational: a long-term investment in infrastructure that is quietly shaping the future of Southwest Detroit’s small business ecosystem.

For more than a decade, the Southwest Detroit Business Association (SDBA) has taken on a role that extends well beyond traditional business support. Through its streetscape and infrastructure work, the organization has helped reimagine what it means for a commercial corridor to function not only as a place to shop, but as a place to live, gather, and grow.

Greg Mangan, SDBA’s real estate advocate, has seen that evolution firsthand.

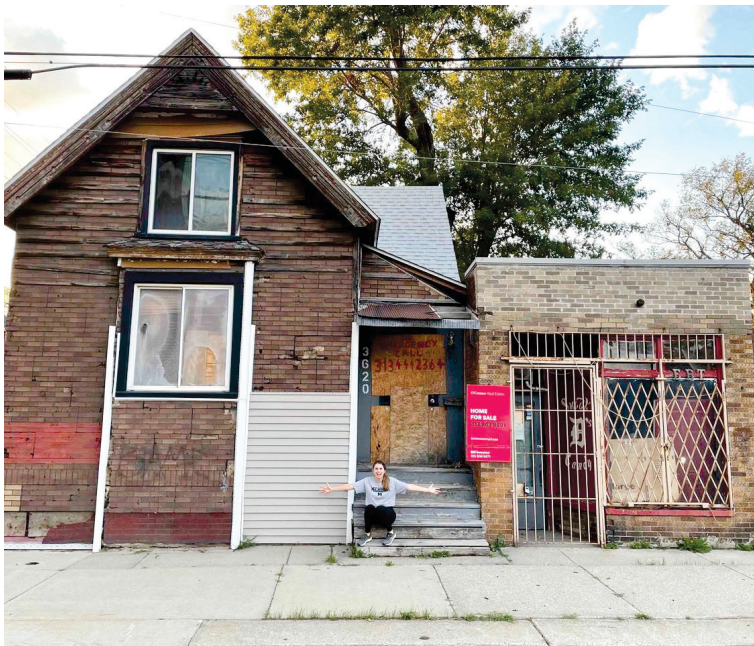
“My role in the past originally was more around small business technical assistance and helping with property owners — trying to be a match-maker for property owners and businesses looking for space,” Mangan says. “And then it kind of transitioned into working on infrastructure issues like green stormwater infrastructure and streetscape projects.”

That foundation has taken many forms. In 2015, a nearly \$6 million streetscape project transformed over two miles of West Vernor, replacing sidewalks, installing historic lighting, and adding landscaping elements like planter beds and trees. The project was a collaboration between SDBA, the City of Detroit, DTE, and local stakeholders—and it marked a turning point in how infrastructure was approached in the neighborhood.

The improvements weren’t just aesthetic. For small business owners, they removed significant financial burdens.

“Let’s say every sidewalk slab is \$800 and you have 10 of those in front of your property. That’s \$8,000 you may have to repair,” Mangan says. “When we replace all the sidewalks, that’s a cost that doesn’t have to be borne by the property owner.”

That kind of relief is critical in a neighborhood where many businesses operate on thin margins and lack access to large amounts of capital.



**BEFORE:** Inkwell Partners at 3620 Porter St. Photo courtesy of Inkwell Partners, LLC

Infrastructure — whether it’s sidewalks, lighting, or drainage systems — is expensive, and often out of reach without coordinated public or philanthropic support.

That’s where SDBA acts as a bridge.

“I think it gives avenues for businesses to reach and receive funding opportunities—like grants or loans—that they might not otherwise have known to look for,” Sarah Clark, co-founder and executive

co-director of Cadillac Urban Gardens, says. “SDBA provides that bridge to finding those different funding mechanisms. They’re a trusted source.”

Clark has worked alongside SDBA for over a decade, particularly on green infrastructure projects like rain gardens, which are landscaped areas designed to absorb and filter stormwater runoff.

“I’ve been working with Greg for over 10 years,” she says. “He’s consistent, always there, and really cares. He makes a wonderful difference in the neighborhood and establishes great relationships with business owners.”

These projects have become increasingly important in a city grappling with aging infrastructure and frequent flooding. Southwest Detroit has a high concentration of impervious surfaces — roads, sidewalks, and rooftops that

prevent water from being absorbed into the ground — putting pressure on drainage systems.

To address this, SDBA and its partners have implemented green stormwater infrastructure across the neighborhood.

“We have so much impervious surface through the roads, sidewalks, and roofs,” Mangan says. “So we’ve undertaken green stormwater infrastructure projects — like rain gardens and underground systems — to capture that water.”

Behind SDBA’s office, a rain garden captures runoff that would otherwise strain the sewer system. At La Joya Gardens, an affordable housing development

completed last year, an underground system collects the first inch of rainfall from surrounding surfaces.

“These kinds of projects are very expensive, and they usually can’t be borne alone by a property owner or business,” Mangan says.

La Joya Gardens also revealed

another layer of infrastructure challenges: energy capacity. To support the development’s 53 apartments, the project required 13 new utility poles, five transformers, and extensive new wiring.

“Something that would normally cost \$25,000 for a new utility pole and transformer ended up costing over \$600,000 for the development,” Mangan says.

But that investment doesn’t just benefit one project.

“The next business or development in that area may now have upgraded power and won’t have to bear that



**AFTER:** Inkwell Partners improvements at 3620 Porter St. The company received support from SBDA. Photo courtesy of Inkwell Partners, LLC

cost,” he says.

Funding for these efforts comes from a mix of sources, including foundations, financial institutions, and public agencies.

“Some of the funding has come from foundations like Kresge, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, and different banking institutions,” Mangan says. “That helps fund staff and support work around business and property owner resiliency.”

Still, funding landscapes are always shifting, adding uncertainty to long-term planning.

That uncertainty extends beyond funding. In a neighborhood with a large immigrant population, broader political dynamics can also shape how business owners feel about investing.

“There’s definitely more concern in the neighborhood,” Clark says. “But people are looking out for one another.”

That sense of care and connection is part of what makes infrastructure improvements so impactful.

“I think it shows that businesses care, and the community cares about investing in their local businesses,” Clark says. “It makes more people want to come to the neighborhood, frequent those businesses, and keep money within the community.”

At its core, streetscape programming isn’t just about physical upgrades. It’s about creating spaces where people feel safe, connected, and welcomed.

“One thing that’s underrated is how infrastructure creates safer places for people—whether they’re walking, biking, or using a wheelchair,” Mangan says. “If you create infrastructure that accommodates more than just vehicles, you create a more equitable neighborhood.”

Future plans reflect that approach. A proposed project along the Joe Louis Greenway would widen sidewalks and

introduce green infrastructure elements like bioswales to capture stormwater while improving pedestrian safety.

For Clark, the long-term vision is rooted in consistency and care.

“SDBA has always been there when I needed a resource — whether it’s a grant, a partnership, or a connection,” she says. “I think they’ll continue to improve the quality of businesses and help people who are already here.”

While new developments often draw attention, it’s the underlying systems that determine whether businesses can thrive. In Southwest Detroit, those systems are being rebuilt not just to function, but to support a community that continues to invest in itself.

*Editor’s Note: See page 3 of this issue for an update about The Grand Porter, which has occupied the renovated space pictured above.*

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*Resilient Neighborhoods is a reporting and engagement series examining how Detroit residents and community development organizations work together to strengthen local neighborhoods. It’s made possible with funding from The Kresge Foundation.*

*Layla McMurtrie is a local journalist who is passionate about arts, culture, and the Detroit community. Her work has been featured in the Detroit Metro Times, Detroit Free Press, Between the Lines, Metromode, and other Michigan publications. She also co-founded a community arts organization called The Vision Detroit, where she hosts a podcast called Tell A Vision highlighting the city’s young artists.*



Greg Mangan works as a real estate advocate at SBDA helping businesses with streetscape and infrastructure improvements. Photo: Nick Hagen



Sarah Clark of Cadillac Urban Gardens in Southwest Detroit. Photo: Nick Hagen



# Tigers Best Opening Day Ever?

## Tigers 4 – Cardinals 0

Story and photos by Michael Alberts unless otherwise noted

It’s a Detroit Thing. “Opening Day”, April 3, 2026, was the seventh game of the 2026 MLB season, yet the Lodge Freeway was jammed on Good Friday at 11 in the morning like money was being given away downtown. Grand Circus Park was filled with fans by 9am. Parking started at \$30 six blocks from the ballpark. Bars were full. Restaurants were getting

full. The Tigers just got swept by the Diamondbacks and fans were behaving like they were World Series Champs. Only in Detroit is the first home game of the season a day where people call in sick, take vacation and pay premium prices for standing room only tickets to see a team that had lost four of its first six games. 45,008 was the official attendance number for “Opening Day”. 73 degrees and no rain (best weather in 30 years).

The game lasted two hours and thirty-one glorious minutes. New Tiger pitcher Framber Valdez made good on his new multi-million-dollar contract with a win. 3 hits over six innings. Baez, Dinger (422’ HR), and Greene drove in the 4 runs that won the game. The bullpen, Vest, Finnegan, and Holton held the St. Louis Cardinals scoreless. Tiger baseball at its best. Fathers, sons, grandsons, babies, fans in crazy costumes, a shirt sleeve crowd in what is usually

a cold stadium. Bottom line, the tradition continues from what started at Michigan and Trumbull to the not so new Comerica Park. Brandon Inge delivered the first pitch to “his” catcher Justin Verlander. The moment that it was announced that Inge was throwing out the first pitch saw the crowd erupt and stood up, when the announcement that Justin Verlander was the catcher was pure magic. Detroit felt “at home”. A few moments later rookie

Kevin McGonigle ran onto the field as the leadoff batter for the day. McGonigle at 5’9” tall is a stick of dynamite and may prove to be a youthful star for the Tigers

Photos below are highlights from Tigers Opening Day game and pre-ceremony



Sports Editor: Dan Grashuck/ EL CENTRAL



45,008 fans pack Comerica Park, during a perfect day, for Opening Day for the 2026 MLB season



First pitch thrown out by Brandon Inge. Photo provided by Detroit Tigers



First pitch catcher Justin Verlander. Photo provided by Detroit Tigers



(photo on left) Tiger rookie Kevin McGonigle greets his new teammates before the homeopener



(photo on right) Fans lining up outside Comerica Park during Opening Day



# Detroit City and Rhode Island Play Dull Draw

Perhaps DCFC will look back on last weekend's 0-0 draw with Rhode Island as a valuable point earned. Chances came rarely on a chilly afternoon in Providence. Both teams may rue the dropped points, but DCFC may have lost more as yet another starter limped off to face a potentially lengthy absence.

When the trip to Rhode Island appeared so early on the fixture list, it set up the teams for a reverse Maxi Rodriguez homecoming. DCFC's number ten spent last year with Rhode Island before returning to the club at which he made his name during a four year run of superb form.



David Levine  
EL CENTRAL

Sadly, Rodriguez missed the game with a hamstring injury that looks to keep him on the shelf for the near future.

DCFC missed his presence in midfield during a battle of attrition. The center of the park remained clogged and inaccessible for much of the game. Both teams lacked the creativity to unlock their opponent. Rhode Island took fourteen shots, all but two going well off target. Le Rouge didn't fare much better, managing just one shot on goal the whole game.

When Ryan Williams limped off holding his hamstring and in obvious pain after 73 minutes, Danny Dichio threw in the towel and clearly had his team playing for time to hold on grimly for a point.

However, DCFC managed

to create three good chances during the six minutes of stoppage time at the end of the game. With a bit more precision any one of them could have turned into a winning goal. First, Kobe Hernandez-Foster took a quick free kick at midfield and sent Ates Diouf away on the right wing. He cut in to shoot, but mishit his shot badly and it dribbled wide. Moments later, DCFC broke forward and an easy pass to Darren Smith would have put the team's best finisher in a prime position to score, but Alex Dalou overhit the pass and the attack came to naught. As the last few seconds ran out, three DCFC players played keep away in the right wing corner when a cross would have at least given a forward the

chance to get on the ball.

So, a good point or a missed opportunity? That will become more clear as the season progresses. Given the current, growing injury list, the team will probably be happy enough. Ryan Williams joins Maxi Rodriguez, Michael Bryant, and Ben Morris as regulars who are missing important early season games. The next important game will be on Saturday afternoon when expansion Jacksonville SC comes to Keyworth. The Jacksonville, Florida team has been suffering like many expansion teams. They have four losses and a draw in their first five games. This is a must win game for Detroit City.

Dichio will hope that his team can put away Sporting

Jax early, so he can rest his top players for the biggest game of the season next Tuesday. The Chicago Fire will be coming to Keyworth in the third round of the Lamar Hunt US Open Cup. The teams met last year in the Windy City and it didn't go well for Le Rouge. The Fire thumped them 4-0 in a one-sided affair. The team and the City supporters will be looking for payback against Gregg Berhalter's team. The Fire are off to a solid start this year with three wins, a draw, and two losses. Most MLS managers play reserves in the Open Cup games. This match is unlikely to be an exception. Should DCFC win in this round, it is highly likely, they will get to host a round of sixteen game, too.

## International Big Time Wrestling returns to Taqueria El Rey, this Sunday, April 12th with another action packed lineup

IBW Champion Roddy Sauvino will be defending his title for the first time as he goes against "The Headliner" Dean Hendrix. The IBW Tag Team Champions "The Den" Cesar Ashur and The Mightee BoJack will face their toughest challengers to date "The Pillars" MM3 and Tommy Vendetta. Making his IBW debut will be former TNA superstar "The Suplex Shogun" Jackson Stone! He will be taking on none other than the crafty Father Marquis. Also making his debut all the way from Mexico is Joseph Antonio Guerrero. Guerrero will be taking on Nick Ultima who is also making his debut. This promises to be one not to miss.

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:  
Trump Has Really, Seriously, Frighteningly Lost His Mind  
His latest threat is bonkers

By Robert Reich

Trump told reporters on Monday, April 6 that unless Iran reopens the Strait of Hormuz, “every bridge in Iran will be decimated” and “every power plant in Iran will be out of business, burning, exploding and never to be used again,” adding that “the entire country can be taken out in one night, and that night might be tomorrow night.”

What about international law, which prohibits nations from destroying civilian infrastructure? What about Trump’s repeated assurance that the United States has already “obliterated” the danger Iran poses?

The biggest absurdity here is that Trump is now focusing his war’s endgame on Iran’s willingness to open the strait. But the strait was open before Trump attacked Iran on February 28. Iran blocked it in retaliation



for that attack.

Iran said it will reopen the strait only if it gets a guarantee that it will not be attacked again, if Israel ends its strikes against Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the U.S. lifts all economic sanctions on Iran. Sounds as if Iran believes it has more bargaining power now than it did before Trump began his war.

Trump also made a stunning admission. “If it were up to me,” he said, “I’d take the oil, I’d keep the oil, it would bring plenty of money.” But he’s not going to do that, he said, because “unfortunately the American people would like to see us come home.”

Hello? Trump is already blaming the American public for his failure to achieve his objectives in Iran.

The problem isn’t that the American public wants this war to end. It does, but most of the public was against the war from its start.

The basic problem is we have a commander-in-chief who took

the nation into this unwinnable war for reasons he never articulated, without a strategy for how to respond if Iran did the expected and closed the strait in retaliation, and without an exit strategy if Iran doesn’t surrender.

What if Iran refuses to reopen the strait by Trump’s deadline? Has he really thought through the consequences if he goes through with his threat — likely thousands of Iranian civilians deaths? And what then? Has he thought through what happens if he doesn’t go through with his threat and loses still more credibility?

The problem underlying all this is we have a president who is no longer thinking straight. As Senator Chris Murphy posted, Trump “is completely, utterly unhinged. He’s already killed thousands. He’s going to kill thousands more.”

How do we deal with this underlying problem? Murphy suggests the 25th Amendment, section four of which authorizes the vice president and a



majority of the Cabinet, or the vice president and a majority of an “other body” created by Congress, to declare a president “unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.” Doing so would elevate the vice president to acting president.

It won’t happen soon, but if Trump continues to deteriorate — subjecting Americans to ever-higher prices and ever-greater dangers — Republicans won’t have any alternative. Neither will America.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s former assistant director for counterintelligence Frank Figliuzzi posted: “The American president has lost his mind.”

Journalist Steven Beschloss wrote: “This is an actual post. This is not funny. This is beyond desperate. This is a deeply unwell man who doesn’t belong anywhere near the levers of power.”

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor  
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Opinión de un Invitado:  
Trump ha perdido la cabeza de verdad, en serio y de manera aterradora.  
Su última amenaza es una auténtica locura.

Por Robert Reich

Trump declaró a los periodistas el lunes 6 de abril que, a menos que Irán reabra el estrecho de Ormuz, «todos los puentes de Irán serán diezmados» y «todas las centrales eléctricas de Irán quedarán fuera de servicio: ardiendo, explotando y sin poder volver a utilizarse jamás»; y añadió que «todo el país puede ser aniquilado en una sola noche, y esa noche podría ser mañana por la noche».

¿Qué hay de la legislación internacional, que prohíbe a las naciones destruir infraestructuras civiles? ¿Qué hay de la reiterada afirmación de Trump de que Estados Unidos ya ha «aniquilado» el peligro que representa Irán?

El mayor absurdo de todo esto es que Trump centra ahora el desenlace de su guerra en la disposición de Irán a abrir el estrecho. Pero el estrecho ya estaba abierto antes de que

Trump atacara a Irán el 28 de febrero. Irán lo bloqueó como represalia por dicho ataque.

Irán ha declarado que solo reabrirá el estrecho si recibe la garantía de que no volverá a ser atacado, si Israel pone fin a sus ataques contra Hezbolá en el Líbano y si Estados Unidos levanta todas las sanciones económicas impuestas a Irán. Da la impresión de que Irán cree tener ahora un mayor poder de negociación que antes de que Trump iniciara su guerra.

Trump hizo también una confesión asombrosa. «Si por mí fuera —dijo—, me llevaría el petróleo, me quedaría con el petróleo; eso generaría muchísimo dinero». Sin embargo, afirmó que no lo hará porque, «lamentablemente, el pueblo estadounidense desearía vernos regresar a casa».

¿Hola? Trump ya está culpando a la opinión pública

estadounidense de su fracaso a la hora de lograr sus objetivos en Irán.

El problema no es que el pueblo estadounidense quiera que esta guerra termine. Ciertamente lo desea, pero la mayor parte de la población se opuso a la guerra desde sus inicios.

El problema fundamental es que tenemos un comandante en jefe que arrastró a la nación a esta guerra imposible de ganar por motivos que nunca llegó a articular; sin una estrategia sobre cómo responder si Irán hacía lo previsible —cerrar el estrecho como represalia—, y sin una estrategia de salida en caso de que Irán no se rinda.

¿Qué ocurrirá si Irán se niega a reabrir el estrecho para la fecha límite fijada por Trump? ¿Ha sopesado realmente las consecuencias de cumplir su amenaza —probablemente,

la muerte de miles de civiles iraníes—? ¿Y qué pasaría entonces? ¿Ha reflexionado sobre lo que sucedería si no cumple su amenaza y pierde aún más credibilidad? El problema subyacente a todo esto es que tenemos un presidente que ya no piensa con claridad. Tal como publicó el senador Chris Murphy, Trump «está completa y absolutamente desquiciado. Ya ha matado a miles. Va a matar a miles más».

¿Cómo abordamos este problema de fondo? Murphy sugiere recurrir a la 25.ª Enmienda, cuya cuarta sección autoriza al vicepresidente —junto con la mayoría del Gabinete, o bien junto con la mayoría de un «otro organismo» creado por el Congreso— a declarar que un presidente es «incapaz de desempeñar los poderes y deberes de su cargo». De procederse de este modo, el

vicepresidente asumiría el cargo de presidente en funciones.

No sucederá a corto plazo; pero si el estado de Trump continúa deteriorándose —sometiendo a los estadounidenses a precios cada vez más elevados y a peligros cada vez mayores—, los republicanos no tendrán otra alternativa. Tampoco la tendrá Estados Unidos.

Frank Figliuzzi, ex subdirector de contrainteligencia de la Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI), publicó: «El presidente estadounidense ha perdido la cabeza».

El periodista Steven Beschloss escribió: «Esta es una publicación real. No tiene nada de gracioso. Es algo más que desesperado. Se trata de un hombre profundamente perturbado que no debería estar ni remotamente cerca de los resortes del poder».

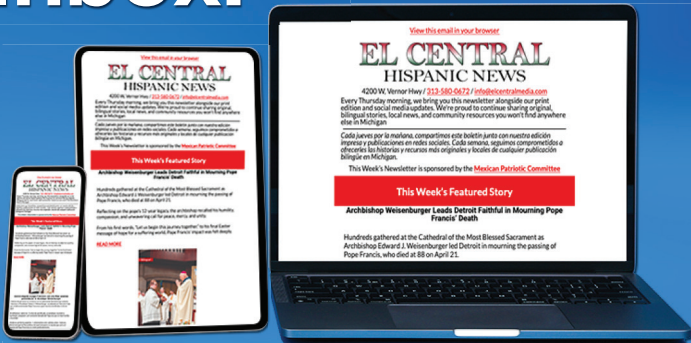
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WORLD'S

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Bribri Origin Myth

Bribri elders from Talamanca tell that long before the world existed the way we know it, Sibú—also called Sibö—and Surá were already there, together from the very beginning, like the sky and the earth, like light and depth.

Sibö, the great creator, once walked the Earth as a man. He taught people how to live—how to build their cone-shaped homes, how to plant crops, how to hunt, how to sing and dance the stories of creation. He showed them how to listen to the forest and live in harmony with everything around them. But he wasn't just any man—he could be everywhere at once, understand every language, and take the form of animals or people. From the sky, he watches over life and keeps the world in balance.

But Sibö wasn't alone. Deep beneath the earth lived Surá, his inseparable counterpart. She was the great mother, the first grandmother, the guardian of the corn seeds where the spirit of humanity rested before being born. Her realm was underground, because deep inside the earth is where everything begins. They say Surá isn't just one being, but many—eight and more, as many as there are living beings, since every person carries a part of her within them.

One day, Sibö went down into that deep world called Surakaska—the place where everything begins and everything returns. There, he took the corn seeds that Surá had been protecting since the beginning of time. He carried them to the top of Suráyön mountain, and after fasting and praying for five days, he



purified them with water and planted them in the earth.

He placed the seeds into eight groups, and from each group the first people emerged, forming the original clans. That's how humanity came to be.

Even though Sibö gave them life, it was Surá who gave them form. From deep below, like a master craftswoman, she shaped them like clay vessels. And as she molded each one, they gave off a different sound, like a melody that revealed their essence—some would be brave, others wise, others kind or strong. Only shamans, the ones who truly see, can hear those songs and recognize each person's true form.

The first people listened to Sibö's teachings—his songs, his dances, his words. From that came the Siwa, the path for living in balance, passed down from generation to generation since ancient times.

They say Sibö watches over the world from above—during the day he stays in the east, protecting good spirits, and at night he moves to the west to guard people from the bad ones. Meanwhile, Surá keeps working quietly beneath the earth, shaping life from its very beginning.

And when life comes to an end, the journey doesn't stop. Each person returns to where they came from—to Surá's deep world, to Surakaska, where everything began. There, in that eternal womb, souls rest and wait, like seeds, ready for a new beginning.

That's what the Bribri elders say: everything that exists was born from the union of Sibö and Surá... and one day, everything will return to them.

Talamanca



Talamanca is a place where the jungle feels alive, like every corner has a story to tell. In this part of Costa Rica's Caribbean, you'll find a mix of beaches, rainforest, mountains, rivers, and Indigenous communities like the Bribri, who share their traditions, culture, and history.

Time feels different in Talamanca: slower, more connected to nature. As you walk around, you hear birds everywhere, feel the rhythm of the forest, wander deeper into the jungle, and come across beautiful waterfalls.

But Talamanca isn't just jungle. Its Caribbean beaches have their own kind of magic—light sand, warm water, and a laid-back vibe. In Puerto Viejo, everything comes together: Afro-Caribbean culture, great music, and amazing food. The sound of the ocean blends with reggae and the tropical breeze, creating a chill, authentic atmosphere. And watching the sunset over the ocean? That's something you won't forget.

Bribri: Indigenous people of Talamanca



The Bribri people are one of the most important Indigenous communities in Costa Rica. They mainly live in the Talamanca region, but some also live across the border in Panama. Like many Indigenous groups, they have a deep connection to nature, and that sense of harmony is a big part of who they are. For them, the land, rivers, and rainforest aren't just resources—they're living beings that deserve respect.

The Bribri have held on to many of their ancestral traditions. They have their own language, Bribri, and a unique social structure based on family clans. They also have an impressive knowledge of medicinal plants, which they've passed down from generation to generation.

Cacao holds a really special place in their culture, especially for women, since it's closely tied to their spirituality and rituals.

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Hispanic News

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,

by Mariana Ayón RV



ESPECIAL

CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Costa Rica

Mito Bribri del Origen

Cuentan los abuelos Bribri de Talamanca que antes de que existiera el mundo como lo conocemos, ya estaban Sibú o Sibö y Surá, unidos desde siempre, como el cielo y la tierra, como la luz y la profundidad.

Sibö, el gran creador, caminó alguna vez sobre la Tierra como un hombre. Enseñó a la gente a vivir: a construir sus casas cónicas, a sembrar, a cazar, a cantar y a danzar los relatos del origen. Les mostró cómo escuchar al bosque y vivir en armonía con todo lo que los rodea. Pero no era un hombre cualquiera: podía estar en todos lados, hablar todas las lenguas y tomar la forma de animales o de personas. Desde el cielo cuidaba la vida y el equilibrio del mundo.

Pero Sibö no estaba solo. En lo más profundo de la tierra habitaba Surá, su contraparte inseparable. Ella era la gran madre, la primera abuela, la guardiana de las semillas del maíz, donde descansaba el espíritu de la humanidad antes de nacer. Su reino era subterráneo, porque es en las entrañas de la tierra donde todo comienza. Dicen que Surá no es una sola, sino muchas: ocho y más, tantas como seres existen, pues cada persona lleva dentro su propio reflejo de ella.

Un día, Sibö descendió hasta ese mundo profundo llamado Surakaska, el lugar donde todo empieza y todo regresa. Allí tomó las semillas de maíz que Surá había guardado y cuidado desde el principio de los tiempos. Las llevó hasta la cima del monte Suráyön, donde, después de ayunar y orar durante cinco días, las purificó con agua y las sembró en la tierra.

Colocó las semillas en ocho grupos, y de cada uno brotaron las primeras personas, formando los clanes originales. Así nació la humanidad.

Aunque Sibö les dio la vida, fue Surá quien les dio



forma. Desde lo profundo, como una gran artesana, comenzó a moldearlos como vasijas de barro. Y mientras los formaba, cada uno emitía un sonido distinto, como una melodía que anunciaba su esencia: algunos serían valientes, otros sabios, otros bondadosos o fuertes. Solo los chamanes saben escuchar esos cantos y ver la forma verdadera de cada ser.

Las primeras personas escucharon entonces las enseñanzas de Sibö: sus cantos, sus danzas, su palabra. De ahí nació el Siwa, el camino para vivir en equilibrio, que ha pasado de generación en generación desde tiempos antiguos.

Dicen que Sibö cuida el mundo desde lo alto: durante el día permanece en el este, protegiendo a los buenos espíritus, y por la noche viaja al oeste para resguardar a la gente de los malos. Mientras tanto, Surá sigue trabajando en silencio desde el fondo de la tierra, moldeando la vida desde su origen.

Y cuando llega el final de la vida, el viaje no termina. Cada persona regresa al lugar de donde vino, al mundo profundo de Surá, al Surakaska, donde todo comenzó. Allí, en ese vientre eterno, las almas descansan y esperan, como semillas, listas para un nuevo comienzo.

Así dicen los antiguos Bribri: que todo lo que existe nació de la unión de Sibö y Surá... y que todo, algún día, volverá a ellos.

Talamanca



Talamanca donde la selva parece tener vida propia y cada rincón guarda una historia. En esta región del Caribe costarricense une playas, selvas, montañas, ríos y comunidades indígenas como los Bribri con sus tradiciones por compartir, su cultura y su historia.

En Talamanca el tiempo se siente distinto: más lento, más conectado con la naturaleza, pues al caminar se puede escuchar a las aves, sentir el ritmo de los bosques, adentrarse en la selva y disfrutar de cascadas.

Mas, no podemos dejar de lado que Talamanca no es solo selva, pues sus playas caribeñas tienen un encanto especial: arena clara, aguas cálidas. Puerto Viejo, Talamanca ha logrado la armonía de la cultura afrocaribeña con su música y sabores únicos. El sonido del mar se combina con el reggae y la brisa tropical, creando un ambiente relajado y auténtico. Aquí, ver el atardecer frente al océano se vuelve un momento inolvidable.

Bribri: Indígenas de Talamanca



El pueblo Bribri es una de las comunidades indígenas más importantes de Costa Rica, y vive principalmente en la región de Talamanca, aunque también habitan territorios de Panamá.

Como otros pueblos indígenas, su conexión con la naturaleza, así como su relación de armonía hace que en su entorno se sienta lo esencial de la tranquilidad como parte de su identidad. Para ellos, la tierra, los ríos y la selva no son recursos: son seres vivos que merecen respeto.

Los Bribri conservan muchas de sus tradiciones ancestrales. Tienen su propio idioma, el bribri, y una organización social muy particular basada en clanes familiares. Además, su conocimiento sobre plantas medicinales es impresionante, y lo han transmitido de generación en generación.

El cacao tiene un valor muy especial en su cultura, sobre todo para las mujeres, ya que está ligado a la espiritualidad y a sus rituales.

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